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Intellectual Property

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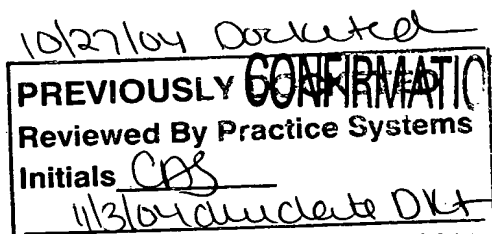
AUG 26 2004

FISH & RICHARDSON P.C.
BOSTON OFFICE

August 18, 2004

Your Ref. : 05918-117CN1
Our Ref. : SCT022033-19
(Please ask for Wen Che)

Fax No: 1-617 5428906



Via fax and mail

Re: Chinese Patent Application for Invention No. 01806641.0 (PCT/US01/08100)
In the name of VELCRO INDUSTRIES B.V.

Dear Sirs,

Enclosed herewith please find a copy of the first Office Action (OA) issued by the State Intellectual Property Office (SIPO) of P. R. China on the above-identified application and its English translation. A response thereto is due by November 3, 2004. An extension of the deadline for response is allowed for one or two months by filing a written request and paying the prescribed fees.

Enclosed also please find a copy of the Articles and Rules mentioned in the OA for your reference and our debit note for your kind settlement.

The outstanding OA is established on the basis of claims 1-20, which were filed as voluntary amendments according to the instructions in your letter dated January 3, 2004. Please take the following as reference when considering how to address the OA.

1. In the OA, the Examiner cites references D1 (CN1153701A) and D2 (WO97/25892A1) against the patentability of claims 1-12 and 14-18. D1 is a Chinese patent application enjoying a Japanese priority No. 287583/95 with the priority date of November 6, 1995. You may download the priority application from the Internet for your reference. If you want us to translate D1 from Chinese into English, please let us have your instructions at your earliest convenience. Further, D2 has been cited in the International Search Report. Please study the present application, D1 and D2, and let us have your comments on this point. The applicant may amend the claims within the scope of the initial disclosure defined by the original Claims and the Description, if necessary.

2. Claim 1 is rejected under Article 26(4) of the Chinese Patent Law as not being supported by the Description. Specifically, the Examiner asserts that the limitation therein "the mold roll having mold cavities shaped to...and form respective resin bases at the surface of the

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Attn.: JAMES W. BABINEAU
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mold roll" is neither clearly described in nor directly derivable from the original Description. Please let us know the support of the Description for this limitation, thus we could make an argument to rebut the Examiner.

As for the rejection on the limitation "introducing a pre-formed sheet material to the resin...to separate the fastener product from the mold roll", the Examiner actually requires the applicant to amend the Description to formally support claim 1. We can attend to it at our end.

3. Claims 2, 7, 11-13 and 15-18 are rejected under Article 26(4) of the Chinese Patent Law as not being supported by the Description. In fact, the Examiner also requires the applicant to amend the Description to formally support these claims. We can attend to them at our end.

4. Claims 8-10, 19 and 20 are rejected under Article 26(4) of the Chinese Patent Law as not being supported by the Description. Please let us know the support of the Description for these claims, thus we could make an argument to rebut the Examiner.

5. Claims 7, 8, 12, 13 and 18 are objected to under Rule 20(1) as being unclear.

To overcome the objection to claim 7, the applicant is advised to delete the wording "substantially" therein. Concerning the wording "only" in claim 7, we believe the definition made with this wording is appropriate.

To overcome the objection to claim 8, the applicant is advised to delete the wording "substantially" therein.

To overcome the objection to claim 12, the applicant is advised to amend it as: the fastener elements each have a molded stem that tapers outwardly from its base in width.

To overcome the objection to claim 13, the applicant is advised to delete the wording "relatively" therein.

As for the objection to claim 18, the wording "lower layer" therein corresponds to the wording "upper layer" in claim 17, thus the wording "lower" in claim 18 is clear enough.

6. As for the objection to the title of the invention, the applicant is advised to amend it to "a method for forming a fastener product".

We look forward to your comments and instructions not later than October 27, 2004, so that we may prepare and file the response with the SIPO in time.

Sincerely yours,



Patent Department
China Sinda Intellectual Property Ltd.